



## Harold Peto

Architect and Designer  
of Gardens

1854-1933

## Travel Diaries

Harold Peto is now well established for creating some of the most outstanding gardens of the Edwardian period. The range of his work, much of which appeared in *Country Life*, is a huge testimony to his skill and appreciation of the different landscapes he undertook to design for his commissions. It is evident from his eclectic style how his work was inspired by the gardens and art of Italy, France, Spain and the Far East.

Although he practised as an architect in London in a flourishing partnership with Ernest George (1839-1922), it is for his designed gardens of the *belle époque* that he has become justifiably acclaimed, even to the accolade of 'genius'. However in spite of this recognition very little documentation has hitherto been published to substantiate how his knowledge and enthusiasm for garden making evolved as part of his working life. It is therefore now particularly significant that to compensate for this lack of biographical evidence, his **Travel Diaries**, by agreement with the owners, have been published



by the Cwareli Press, to give us a fascinating insight into the man, his background and the sources of his inspiration - all are brought into focus for the first time. They offer a very personal view of his experiences abroad during the 1880s and '90s. The journals in themselves being descriptive and amusing, are an evocative reflection of the experience of late nineteenth century travellers, while at the same time illuminating what was to become his essential and characteristic style of gardening, that which matured and blossomed, following his decision to leave London and the partnership in 1892.

All the diaries are introduced by Robin Whalley who has over many years studied and written extensively on the work of Harold Peto. He has, with the acknowledged help of other scholars, transcribed the diaries, editing where necessary, and giving a background and a context for the people referred to, in some cases just acquaintances, and in others, part of a wider group of lifetime friends or family. The footnotes have been kept to a minimum and only supplied when the text needs further clarification.

Each of the diaries have been published as a separate booklet adhering to a uniform size and style so that the set brought together provides overall a unique insight into Harold Peto's formative years.

For more information on Harold Peto and the Travel Diaries see [www.cwarelipress.co.uk](http://www.cwarelipress.co.uk) or write to Cwareli Press, Cwm Oergwm, Llanfrynach, BRECON, Powys LD3 7LQ

### **Harold Peto's Travel Diaries:**

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